

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2278

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5479

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AR, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS:
GOA INVOLVEMENT

REF: SANTIAGO 5483

1. EMBASSY HAS MADE CONCERTED EFFORT TO UNCOVER VERACITY OR LACK THEREOF OF STORIES CONNECTING ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES TO ALLEGED KILLINGS OF EXILED LEFTISTS IN ARGENTINA. WE HAVE UNCOVERED NO EVIDENCE KILLINGS ACTUALLY OCCURED OR THAT ALLEGED CLASH IN SLATA TOOK PLACE. HOWEVER, WE PRESUME THAT GOA HAS IN FACT COOPERATED WITH GOC, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENTS OF PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY, IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

2. REFERENCE ORIGIN OF "LEA" MAGAZINE, OF WHICH ONLY ISSUE PRINTED 15 JULY, WAS TRACED TO PRINTING PRESS IN OFFICE DEPENDENT UPON, BUT NOT LOCATED IN, THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE. EX-SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER LOPEZ REGA WAS STILL IN OFFICE AT THIS TIME; THEREFORE, IT MOST UNLIKELY THE POWERFUL EX-MINISTER WAS UNAWARE OF THE OPERATION.

3. SOURCES CONSULTED BY EMBOFF BELIEVE THAT THOSE ON "LEA" - "O DIA" LISTS WERE PROBABLY KILLED IN CHILE WHILE UNDER DETENTION BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES. FURTHER, NO SOURCES, EITHER GOA
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OR PRIVATE, REPORTED ANY KNOWLEDGE REGARDING SALTA

CLASH. EMBOFF TOLD THAT AN OPERATION RESULTING IN SIXTY EXTREMIST DEATHS NOT POSSIBLE TO TOTALLY SILENCE. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, MONITORING SALTA OPERATIONS, WOULD HAVE TO KNOW IF IT OCCURRED. WE ARE CONVINCED THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT STORY.

4. LEGATT ADVISES THAT POLICE AND ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OF ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, AND CHILE ARE WELL INTER-CONNECTED. CORRESPONDINGLY, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY FOR CHILEAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO GET ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TO PLANT THE "GUENDELMAN" - "PERELMAN" (SIC) DOCUMENTATION OR EVEN CORPSES IN BUENOS AIRES, IF THE CHILEANS ALONE HAD DIFFICULTIES. ALSO, ASSASSINATION OPERATIONS ARE KNOWN TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THESE GOVERNMENTS' SECURITY AGENCIES FOR ONE ANOTHER, THOUGH NEVER PROVABLE.

5. IN VIEW OUR INVESTIGATION, WE BELIEVE ASSASSINATION STORIES AND SALTA OPERATION INVOLVING ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES PROBABLY CONCOCTED BY GOC FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES. GOA COMPLI-CITY, IF ANY, WAS PROBABLY LIMITED TO COOPERATION WITH CHILEAN AUTHORITIES IN CARRYING OUT DECEPTION.

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